

Connecticut Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses

American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), Region I, Chapter 2

Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurses Society (CTAPRNS)

Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists (CANA)

Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA)

Connecticut Chapter of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA-CT)

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP), Connecticut Chapter

The Northwest Nurse Practitioner Group

Members of the Appropriations Committee;

My name is Dr. Lynn Rapsilber, Nurse Practitioner and I am Chair of the Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses. We have been alerted to a proposal within the Governor's Budget (PA 15-244) which has us deeply concerned. A small stipend (\$5) secured from professional licensing fees funds HAVEN: Health Assistance Intervention Education Network. (Ct Statute 19a-12a and 12b). Such monies are requested to be shifted to the general fund. We implore you to reconsider such a proposal.

HAVEN serves licensed health care professionals offering a confidential alternative to "public disciplinary action for professionals suffering from chemical dependency, emotional or behavioral disorder, or physical or mental illness." HAVEN provides a safe environment where healthcare professionals can receive support when they face concerns with substance abuse, alcoholism, behavioral health, mental health or physical illnesses.

This program has been successful in supporting many health care providers (physicians, dentists, veterinarians, nurses, APRNs, CRNAs, PA and others) by utilizing a multidisciplinary approach to rehabilitating, educating, counseling and monitoring to get them back to optimum health, both physically and mentally, to return to work providing care to the residents of CT. We need every healthcare provider in this state to be healthy. Underfunding HAVEN could jeopardize its existence.

We cannot fathom why the state would consider cutting such a vital program for health care professionals at a time when they are most vulnerable and need this support to be able to return to work. In light of enormous efforts to curb the opioid epidemic, to leave those caring for patients unsupported, threatening their livelihood and isolated in finding treatment seems mean spirited and poorly timed. Also, remember APRNs have to maintain 2 licenses (RN and APRN) which means a \$10.00 increase for us.

Our health care professionals devote their careers caring for their patients. HAVEN promotes recovery in a dignified manner allowing these professional to return to what they do best, care for the residents of CT.

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